

IV. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-5 and 7-11 remain in the application. Claim 6 was previously cancelled. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended.

2. In response to the requirement for corrected drawings, Applicant would like to clarify that the most recent drawings were submitted in formal, hardcopy form as part of the 37 CFR 1.114 submission accompanying the RCE filed by mail on May 12, 2003. Please note that the unentered After Final Amendment of April 10, 2003 was not part of the 37 CFR 1.114 submission.

Nevertheless, formal, hardcopy replacement sheets 1-5 with amended Figures 1-5, 6a-6d, 7a, 7b, 8a, and 8b are enclosed herewith.

3. The specification has been amended to correct an error. No new matter has been introduced.

4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5, 7, 10, and 11 are not anticipated by Daffara et al. (US 5,987,122, hereinafter "Daffara").

Daffara fails to disclose or suggest a hinge having a shaft part having first and second portions as claimed, specifically in which the first portion is acted upon by a biasing force in a direction parallel to the common axis of rotation which is provided by elastic energy stored by the second portion, as recited by claims 1 and 10.

In Daffara, a biasing force acting on the shaft 32 is provided by a spring 42. In the Examiner's analysis, a tab 64 is equated with the "second portion" of claim 1. However, Daffara has no

suggestion that the tab 64 can store elastic energy to provide the biasing force. In addition, the construction of the hinge disclosed in DAFFARA is such that modifying it to enable the tab 64 to store elastic energy to provide the biasing force would be nonsensical since no benefit would result.

At least for these reasons, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 10, and 2-5, 7, and 11 by way of their dependency, are not anticipated by Daffara.

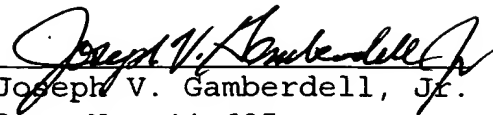
5. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8 and 9 are patentable over Daffara.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 1 and therefore are patentable for the same reasons argued in favor of claim 1.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph V. Gamberdell, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,695

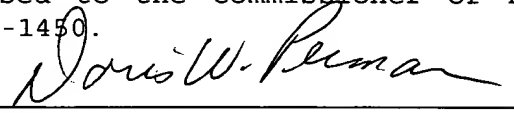

Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450.

Date: 9/8/03

Signature: 
Person Making Deposit